



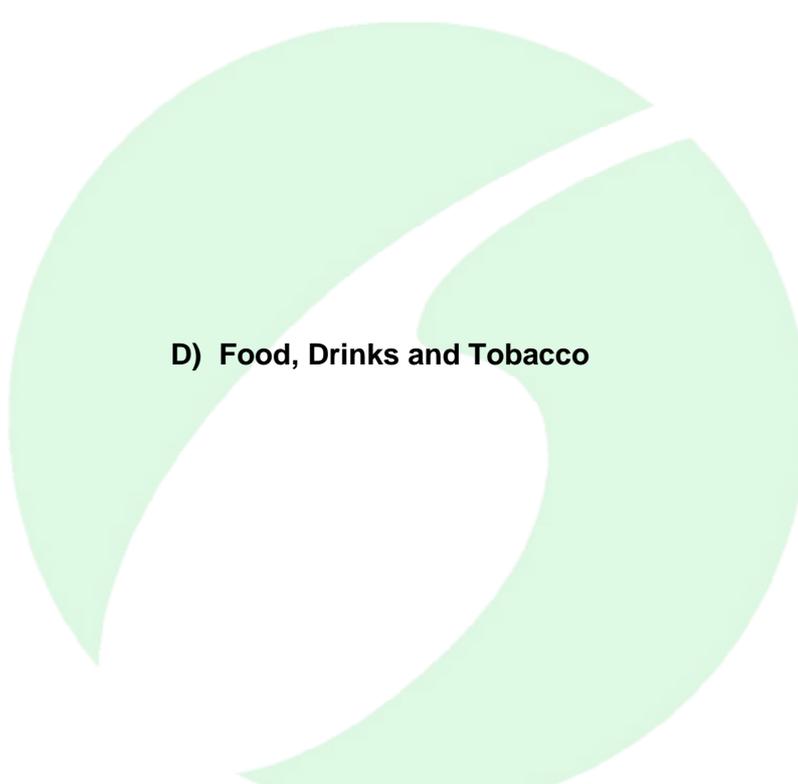
**EFFAT**

EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND TOURISM TRADE UNIONS

**Meeting of the EFFAT Executive Committee  
BRUSSELS, 03 and 04 March 2020**

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Agenda item 7: **Political Framework and follow up on Action Plan 2020-2021**



**D) Food, Drinks and Tobacco**

**Decision:** The Executive Committee takes note of the reports and endorses the documents presented.

**EFFAT**



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## Activity report and work update March 2020

### EFFAT Food, Drink & Tobacco Sector

<b>Creating a better Europe together</b>	
<b>Activities</b>	<b>Results and progress</b>
<b>1. European Adjustment Fund</b> <b>Globalisation</b>	<p>We have campaigned to ensure that the European Globalisation Fund (EGF) becomes an anticipatory instrument and supports workers adversely affected by trade disputes, to keep their existing jobs. As explained over the past two years, we met with the European Commission and the European Parliament. Good proposals from both the Commission and the Parliament have been brought forward to improve the added value and effectiveness of the EGF, which support people losing their jobs in the context of structural changes due to globalisation. An ongoing process.</p>
<b>2. Human Rights Due Diligence</b>	<p>We have worked to propose amendments to the draft ETUC position on this topic (attention drawn to the binding nature of the instrument, collective bargaining rights, and operating models such as franchise systems and contract management) and we are sharing knowledge and information with NGOs (Voice network, Fair Trade Advocacy Office).</p>
<b>3. Posting of workers: Eurodétachement project</b>	<p>We are collaborating with the « Institut National du Travail, de l'Emploi et de la Formation Professionnelle » in France (Ministry for employment and social affairs) who is running a project aimed at establishing collaboration alliances between labour inspectorates and social partners. Our French, Dutch and Bulgarian affiliates are involved in awareness raising campaigns with their respective labour inspectorates.</p>
<b>A better future of work</b>	
<b>4. EU social dialogue in the food and drink sector</b>	<p>The final conference of the joint EFFAT FoodDrinkEurope project on "new professions and career paths in the food and drink industry. Delivering high level food industry skills in the digital economy" took place on 15 October 2019: <a href="https://www.fffat.org/uncategorized/digital-technology-in-food-manufacturing-bridging-the-gap-between-automation-and-people/">https://www.fffat.org/uncategorized/digital-technology-in-food-manufacturing-bridging-the-gap-between-automation-and-people/</a></p> <p>At the time of writing, the full final report and a short promotional video are currently being designed. They will be made available in March 2020.</p>

<p><b>5. EU social dialogue in the sugar industry</b></p>	<p>A social dialogue working group meeting took place on 4 September 2019. CEFS and EFFAT reflected on the conclusions of the High-Level Group on sugar in a press release reiterating that after over a year of discussions, no tangible steps have been taken to stabilise the EU sugar market: <a href="https://www.effat.org/featured/the-eu-sugar-industry-matters/">https://www.effat.org/featured/the-eu-sugar-industry-matters/</a></p> <p>Meetings with several MEPs took place in the Autumn 2019 and early 2020 over concerns related to the EU- Mercosur and Australia free trade negotiations.</p> <p>EFFAT and CEFS have successfully pitched for an EU grant to run the 21 month project: "A transforming European sugar industry. New and better jobs in a competitive, innovative and sustainable industry". The project will help to map the social partners' relationships across the EU, collect good practices and assess the current state of employment in the industry. Particular focus will be devoted to discussing the future of the sector, including sustainability drives in beet production, the evolving skillsets required of workers in a developing biorefinery system, and means of attracting a younger labour pool to the sector. Following two educative workshops in 2020 and 2021, a final conference will be held in Brussels in Autumn 2021.</p> <p>The social dialogue plenary meeting took place on 7 February 2020. The 15th implementation report of the joint CEFS EFFAT code of conduct was published: <a href="https://www.effat.org/uncategorized/cefs-and-effat-together-on-a-positive-journey-to-further-sustainability-corporate-social-responsibility-csr-report-2018-2019-out-now/">https://www.effat.org/uncategorized/cefs-and-effat-together-on-a-positive-journey-to-further-sustainability-corporate-social-responsibility-csr-report-2018-2019-out-now/</a></p>
<p><b>Improving workers' rights and conditions</b></p>	
<p><b>6. Cocoa value chain</b></p>	<p>A meeting of the EFFAT Cocoa Steering Committee took place in Brussels on 18-19 September 2019 to exchange on working conditions and labour standards in the sector.</p> <p>EFFAT-IUF member organisations FGTB ABVV Horval from Belgium and FNV from the Netherlands organised on the 16 &amp; 17 December 2019, a workshop bringing together shop stewards from cocoa processing companies to discuss possible approaches to eliminate child labour and poor working conditions in the cocoa value chain. In view of sharing knowledge and forging partnerships, the meeting brought together other trade unions and workers' representatives from Ghana, Ivory Coast, Brazil, Indonesia and Germany. Occupational safety and health issues in cocoa processing and agriculture were discussed in-depth as well as how to manage the hazards to reduce risk.</p> <p>An introductory meeting with Caobisco (Chocolate, Biscuit and Confectionery Industry) took place in January 2020 to discuss due diligence in the cocoa value chain.</p>
<p><b>7. Fish value chain</b></p>	<p>The final conference of the joint ETF EFFAT project "a socially sustainable CFP: workers' organisations' participation in the fisheries' aquaculture and processing sectors" took place in Brussels on 24 September 2019. The outcomes can be accessed here: <a href="https://www.effat.org/food/a-socially-sustainable-cfp-workers-organisations-participation-in-the-fisheries-aquaculture-and-processing-sectors/">https://www.effat.org/food/a-socially-sustainable-cfp-workers-organisations-participation-in-the-fisheries-aquaculture-and-processing-sectors/</a></p> <p>The overarching vision is for an EU Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) that includes social objectives, which protects workers, includes the views of worker representatives in decision making and understands the</p>

	<p>impacts of policy decisions on workers and communities. The CFP must value workers in fisheries as well as the environment.</p> <p>The next review of the functioning of the CFP begins in 2020 and presents an opportunity to address the weaknesses in its social policies and meet the vision of bettering the CFP to become more socially inclusive.</p>
<b>8. Meat value chain</b>	<p>The European Economic and Social Committee finalised an information report on "The services directive in the meat processing sector": <a href="https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/our-work/opinions-information-reports/information-reports/services-directive-meat-processing-sector">https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/our-work/opinions-information-reports/information-reports/services-directive-meat-processing-sector</a></p> <p>The final conference of the meat upFire project coordinated by the University of Urbino in Italy (supported by EFFAT) took place on 23 January in Bologna where the final findings were presented. The final overall outcomes and recommendations will be published in March. <a href="https://www.meatupfire.com/">https://www.meatupfire.com/</a></p>
<b>Building trade union power and international solidarity</b>	
<b>9. Fisheries/Conakry, Guinea</b>	<p>Joint collaboration with the IUF, and the Coalition for Fair Fisheries Arrangements, regarding the plight of eight hundred artisanal fishermen, women fish processors and fishmongers working on the landing and processing site of Kouléwondy, in the Kaloum municipality of Conakry, who have been forced to vacate the area they have been using as a landing and fish processing site for a century, to allow for the enlargement of a hotel's car park.</p>
<b>10. Sugar/Iran</b>	<p>Joint collaboration with the IUF regarding the ongoing struggle of the workers of the Haft Tapeh sugar plantation and refining complex, who are owed several months' wages: <a href="https://www.effat.org/uncategorized/iran-unpaid-wages-hungry-workers-live-bullets/">https://www.effat.org/uncategorized/iran-unpaid-wages-hungry-workers-live-bullets/</a></p> <p>The European Parliament delegation for relations with Iran was informed (December 2019).</p>
<b>11. International trade</b>	<p>Working conditions and labour standards in Latin America were presented by the EFFAT FDT secretariat at a meeting of the civil dialogue group "international aspects of agriculture" organised by the European Commission on 18 October 2019.</p> <p>A meeting with MEP Marc Tarabella (Belgium) was organised on the 19 November 2019 to present our concerns over the Mercosur trade agreement, together with our member organisation FGTB ABVV Horval.</p> <p>On behalf of EFFAT, our expert on Latin America questions, Mr. Bert Schouwenburg attended meetings of the EU expert group on trade organised by the European Commission in June and September 2019, as well as a meeting organised by the ETUC in October 2019 and January 2020.</p>

**Promoting a sustainable agricultural, food and tourism policy**

<b>12. Bioeconomy</b>	<p>The final conference of the EFFAT project: “the bioeconomy and a future biobased food industry and agriculture sector: how can workers ’organisations shape the change?” took place in Brussels on 3 October 2019. The project showed that the development of biobased value chains has significant job creation potential, can safeguard current employment levels and can have substantial direct implications for workers when it comes to required skills and career paths. Trade unions should not only look at the development of the bioeconomy with great attention but should play a role in shaping that development. Trade unions should define a “bioeconomy they want” and should actively contribute to the realisation of a model of bioeconomy which is consistent with their values and goals. The outcomes of this project can be found here: <a href="https://www.effat.org/bioeconomy/">https://www.effat.org/bioeconomy/</a></p> <p>EFFAT agriculture and FDT secretariats are cooperating with different stakeholders (including FoodDrinkEurope and Copa Cogeca) as part of a broad project on addressing current and future skill needs for sustainability, digitalisation and the bioeconomy in agriculture (“FIELDS” project). The project will effectively start in January 2020 and will run for four years.</p>
<b>13. Common food policy and sustainable food systems</b>	<p>EFFAT is part of a European Food Policy Coalition bringing together different NGOs and co-signed a letter to EC Executive Vice President for the Green Deal, Frans Timmermans calling for a fresh, coherent long-term vision for the EU food system: <a href="https://www.effat.org/featured/the-european-green-deal-is-certainly-ambitious-but-question-marks-still-remain/">https://www.effat.org/featured/the-european-green-deal-is-certainly-ambitious-but-question-marks-still-remain/</a></p> <p>EFFAT is exploring together with the legal NGO ClientEarth the possibility to include mandatory environmental and social criteria within the EU merger regulations and to revise article 102 TFEU on abuse of dominant position, with the aim to build fairer, shorter and cleaner supply chains.</p>